REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended so as clearly to be supported on page 6 of the specification, line 31-page 7, line 2. Clearly L^1 and L^2 are disclosed as alkylene or alkenylene. It is conceded that no specific range of carbons is denoted; however, in defining the corresponding monovalent counterparts (alkyl or alkenyl) a larger range 1-10C or 2-10C is specified, and the limits of the chain length of L^1 and L^2 are set forth at the bottom of page 6 at line 28. The spacing determines the number of atoms that can be in the chain, of course. Therefore these designations are not indefinite.

With respect to page 5, line 16, the "n" used in the formula to symbolize alkylene $(CH_2)_n$ is not the same "n" as that in formula (1). It is just a generic "n" to note an indeterminate number of repeating units. It would make no sense to have n equal zero in this context as the alkylene will disappear altogether. It is believed that the ordinarily skilled artisan would not consider this n to refer back to that in the formula. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are fully supported and do not contain new matter.

Further, claim 1 as amended now clearly distinguishes over the cited JP 09/124631. There is no provision for L^2 to be a bond; it must be alkylene; alkylene cannot be just a bond.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the art and therefore the claims dependent thereon are patentable as well.

With respect to claims 40-41, as claim 1 is now patentable over the art, the combination of the patentable subject matter with a known substituent does not destroy the patentability of these claims. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 40-41 may be rejoined as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment set forth above, it is believed that claims 1-6, 9, 11-12, 16-37, 39-42 and 45-84 are in a position for allowance and passage of these claims to issue is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 219002029000.

Respectfully submitted,

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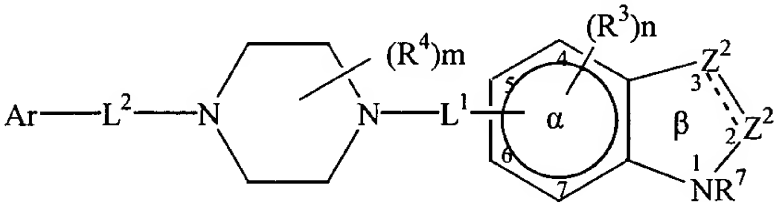
EXHIBIT A. - VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Thrice amended) A compound of the formula:



(1)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition thereof, wherein

⁄ represents a single or double bond;

one Z^2 is CA or CR^8A and the other is CR^1, CR^1_2, NR^6 or N wherein each R^1, R^6 and R^8 is independently hydrogen or noninterfering substituent;

A is $-W_i-COX_jY$ wherein Y is COR^2 or an isostere thereof and R^2 is hydrogen or a noninterfering substituent, each of W and X is a spacer of 2-6Å which is substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene, and each of i and j is independently 0 or 1;

R^7 is H or is optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl, aroyl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl, heteroalkynyl, heteroalkylaryl, or is SOR, SO_2R, RCO, COOR, alkyl-COR, SO_3R, $CONR_2$, SO_2NR_2, CN, CF_3, NR_2, OR, alkyl-SR, alkyl-SOR, alkyl-SO_2R, alkyl-OCOR, alkyl-COOR, alkyl-CN, alkyl-$CONR_2$, or R_3Si, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl or aryl or heteroforms thereof;

each R^3 is independently a noninterfering substituent;

n is 0-3;

each of L^1 and L^2 is independently alkylene [(1-4C)] or alkenylene [(1-4C)] optionally substituted with a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl, aroyl, heteroaryl, heteroalkyl, heteroalkenyl, heteroalkynyl, heteroalkylaryl, NH-aroyl, halo, OR, NR_2, SR, SOR, SO_2R, OCOR, NRCOR, $NRCONR_2$, NRCOOR, $OCONR_2$, RCO, COOR, alkyl-OOR, SO_3R, $CONR_2$, SO_2NR_2, $NRSO_2NR_2$, CN, CF_3, R_3Si, and NO_2, wherein each R is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl or aryl or heteroforms thereof, and wherein two substituents on L^1 or L^2 can be joined to form a non-aromatic saturated or unsaturated ring

that includes 0-3 heteroatoms which are O, S and/or N and which contains 3 to 8 members or said two substituents can be joined to form a carbonyl moiety or an oxime, oximeether, oximeester or ketal of said carbonyl moiety;

each R^4 is independently a noninterfering substituent;

m is 0-4;

Ar is an aryl group substituted with 0-5 noninterfering substituents, wherein two noninterfering substituents can form a fused ring; and

the distance between the atom of Ar linked to L^2 and the center of the α ring is 4.5-24Å.